

**Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry
Membership Meeting
Holy trinity Episcopal Church on September 18, 2013**

Brendan Shortely called to order. No hard copy of the minutes was provided. It was decided that the minutes would not be approved without review. Minutes would be approved at the following meeting after being reviewed via email.

Speaker - BASE – Black Aids Services and Education, Inc.

Base was represented by Dr. Michael Bowie, James Samuels and Theresa White. The members organized in 2000, and were originally a part of the N. Central FL Aids Network. Eventually, they broke off and established BASE, a 501(c)3 organization. Their services are available to everyone. Their organizational focus has four tenets: education and prevention, adult services, children services and volunteer-based services. Their goal is to expand awareness and address the gross disparities in HIV/AIDS services, education and support in Black communities in a manner that is culturally sensitive and appropriate. They recognize that HIV/AIDS is part of a larger community issue that involves homelessness and must be addressed as such. They want to network with the ACCHH in order to expand their services. The Breakfast on the Plaza was mentioned as a great starting point for collaboration with ACCHH. One possible expansion mentioned was the addition of case management, similar to HMIS, in order to secure and maintain information regarding services provided as well as partnering and linking with other service providers. Theresa White and Dr. Michael Bowie discussed the PEP (Positive Empowering Positive) club, an advocacy group for individuals with HIV/AIDS. It meets on the last Friday of every month from 11-1 p.m. at the Health Dept. The PEP club was established to help the newly diagnosed deal with the psychological and emotional issues related to HIV/AIDS. The PEP club is not affiliated with BASE, but they collaborate and advocate for a similar goal. An educational brochure for BASE was provided. Their contact info is 352-273-4365, Mbowie@ufl.edu.

GCI Update

Currently the ACCHH Board has written a letter to City staff and City Commissioners detailing ACCHH's efforts to remedy the conflict of interest involving Theresa Lowe's position as ACCHH executive director and the director of the Office on Homelessness. Initially, Theresa stepped down from her role as ED of the ACCHH, however, the Board proposed to Theresa Lowe the option of stepping down as director of the Office on Homelessness and having her resume her role as ED of the ACCHH. Furthermore, the Board would ask for the Commission to direct City staff to enter into negotiations with the ACCHH to be the managing entity of the GCI/Homeless one-stop center.

Director's Report

Theresa Lowe is away on business. There was no Director's Report.

Treasurer's Report

There were no updates for the Treasurer's Report

Special Events Workgroup

The Special Events Workgroup is continuing to prepare for the Breakfast on the Plaza event November 16th.

Police Report

Lt. Brian Helmerson discussed an incident that took place recently in which a homeless woman was raped while sleeping downtown. The woman expressed to GPD her inability to get services, which left her in the vulnerable situation. There was discussion regarding the handling of this woman following the incident and the need for proper protocol to be followed for individuals who are victims of sexual assault and sexual battery. Lt. Helmerson proposed a physical presence downtown to assist individuals who need services in order to avoid people falling through the cracks. One idea was to have a booth downtown to provide informational materials and referrals for services. The community resource guide has an exhaustive list of services available and can be accessed on the ACCHH website, but there needs to be further outreach to educate individuals on where and how to access the guide and the services listed.

Lt. Helmerson also discussed the changes to downtown trespass ordinance. It will no longer be applied to individuals who have been trespassed without warning and for crimes that do not warrant a trespass.

HMIS Workgroup/CoC Workgroup

Breakfast on the Plaza vendor registration is due by Oct. 15th. Items of need include individual soaps, hygiene products, socks, disposable razors, toothpaste, etc. Items can be dropped off at DCF or Cheryl Twombly will pick up at next meeting. The program will focus on entertainment, speeches, and service providers. There will be a performance by "Company of Praise" which is led by a former homeless individual. They are currently talking with Hoggetowne School's band to perform as well.

Other Announcements

Vicki Lawrence, Santa Fe River Baptist Association – Sponsoring a free dental clinic Sept. 30-Oct. 4 at Ridgeview Baptist Church. Prescreening will begin Sept 23-25 – 9-12 pm

Miriam Elliot asked everyone to contact our House Representative regarding cuts to the SNAP program. The number is 866-456-8824.

The Library is holding 1-on1 classes for computer training. Individuals interested can register with the information desk.

The next meeting is October 16th at 9 a.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.